



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES



Superintendent
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LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE
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An Open Letter from the Acting Public Printer

Dear Depository Librarian:

This is my first official opportunity to address depository librarians since last January, when I attended the ALA midwinter meeting in San Antonio. That was an enlightening meeting for me, and I came away with a fuller appreciation for the marvelous commitment of librarians to public service through the Depository Library Program (DLP). I also came to a better understanding of librarians' concern over the future viability of the DLP in an electronic age. That is a genuine concern, which I share with you. As Acting Public Printer I want to build a DLP that utilizes the best tools of technology for delivering government information to the American public through depository libraries.


I recently met with the Superintendent of Documents and the Director of the Library Programs Service to review the status of the DLP, and I was encouraged with what I found. The DLP is a sound and efficient operation, yet it faces significant challenges if it is to keep pace with rapid changes in technology and society. I am confident, however, that we together--depository librarians and GPO staff--have the skill and the will to meet those challenges for developing a state-of-the-art DLP for the 1990's.

Toward this end, we at the GPO are focusing our efforts along three specific lines in the DLP. First, we realize that the existing LPS operation is more than just the vehicle for delivering current depository services; it represents the foundation for future development of the DLP. For these reasons we will continue to place a high priority on maintaining and enhancing traditional LPS operations. Second, we will press ahead to monitor, test, and apply information technologies that offer the prospect for more efficient and effective delivery of government information to depository libraries. Third, we will be keeping open our lines of communication with the depository library community as we move ahead with these developments. We remain keenly aware that future progress in the DLP must be based upon continued cooperation and shared responsibility between GPO and depository librarians. During this interim period I will be

looking for advice from the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, library associations, and individual depository librarians. In fact, I plan to attend next month's ALA midwinter meeting in Washington, DC to talk with depository librarians and profit from their input.

I want you to know that I share your deep commitment to public service, as well as your vision of a state-of-the-art DLP for the 1990's. I will count on having your full support as I move ahead toward achieving our shared goals.

Your have my best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!



JOSEPH E. JENIFER
Acting Public Printer